

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of extracting the lipidic components from plants of the family Rubiaceae, comprising:

5 decocting the plant material from the family Rubiaceae to resolve a decocted extract;

 filtering the solid mater from the decocted extract;

 combining the filtered decocted extract with an organic solvent;

 agitating the combination;

10 settling the combination into distinct phases to resolve an aqueous layer substantially comprised lipidic constituents and an organic layer substantially comprised of lipophilic constituents; and

 evaporating the aqueous layer to resolve the lipidic constituents.

15 2. The method in claim 1 further comprising,

 drying the filtered decocted extract prior to the step of combining the decoction with an organic solvent.

20 3. The method of claim 1 wherein, the family Rubiaceae plant material is of the *Uncaria* genus.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein, the *Uncaria* species is selected from the group consisting of genera; *Uncaria guianensis*, *Uncaria homomalla*, *Uncaria perrottetii*, *Uncaria pteropoda*, *Uncaria rhynchopylla* and *Uncaria tomentosa*.

5 5. The method of claim 1 wherein,

the step of filtering is achieved by a method selected from the group consisting of, gravitational filtering and vacuum filtering methods.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein,

10 the step of drying is achieved by a method selected from the group consisting of, air-drying, spray drying, freeze-drying and or vacuum drying methods.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein,

15 the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of; chloroform and methanol, and ethyl acetate.

8. An extract from family Rubiaceae having an oxindole alkaloids content of less than about 0.3 milligrams per gram of dried family Rubiaceae plant material decoction.
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9. The extract in claim 8 wherein the starting oxindole alkaloids content per gram of the dried family Rubiaceae plant material decoct is at least about 9 mg.

10. The extract in claim **8** wherein the starting oxindole alkaloids content per gram of the unprocessed family Rubiaceae plant material is at least about 1.8 mg.

11. The extract in claim **8** wherein the extract has an enhanced ability for scavenging 2,2'-dipyridyl-2-pyridylhydrazone (DPPH) radicals.

12. The extract in claim **8** wherein the extract has an enhanced ability to inhibit the formation of tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF α) by regulation of the transcription factor nuclear factor kappa B (NF-kB).

13. The extract in claim **8** embodied in an internally administered or topically administered pharmaceutical dosage.

14. The pharmaceutical dosage in claim **11** comprising a biologically active amount sufficient to ameliorate a condition selected from the group consisting of; NF-kB activation, oxidant burden, enhanced cytokine production and cell death.

15. The pharmaceutical dosage in claim **11** comprising a biologically active amount to ameliorate a conditions selected from the group consisting of; arthritis (both osteoarthritis and rheumatoid), inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), gastritis, inflammation of the eyes, skin, liver, muscles and kidney, fibromyalgia, atherosclerosis, and Alzheimer's disease.

16. A method of reducing the alkaloid content in an extract from plants of the family Rubiaceae, comprising:

decocting the plant material from the family Rubiaceae to resolve a decocted extract;

5 filtering the solid mater from the decocted extract;

combining the filtered decocted extract with an organic solvent;

agitating the combination;

settling the combination into distinct phases to resolve an aqueous layer substantially comprised of lipidic constituents and substantially devoid of alkaloids;

10 and

evaporating the aqueous layer to resolve the lipidic constituents.

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